Infrastructures for new trains

*298. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that trains are introduced or extended by his Ministry without making commensurate arrangements of supporting infrastructure in terms of drivers, guards, TTEs and maintenance staff; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) the details of incidents when train divers and guards were forced to perform duties beyond prescribed hours;

(c) action taken against the officers responsible for such mismanagement, which is a safety hazard; and

(d) steps being taken to ensure timely recruitment and training of Train Running Staff before introduction and extension of trains in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In case of passenger services train crew is booked in a fixed link that ensures they perform duty within permissible limits except in exceptional circumstances.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Recruitment and training of running staff is an on going process. Staff is recruited on the basis of a periodical review of requirement based on level of traffic. Guidelines exist for both initial and refresher training of all categories of staff with a view to ensure professional competence.

Recommendations of Punnayya Committee

†*299. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleasd to state:

(a) the amount allocated to each Central university during Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the amount spent by each university;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the universities have spent the funds which were meant for educational purposes on administrative works;

(c) what are the recommendations of Punnayya Committee regarding universities;

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure compliance of these recommendations by universities; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the development grant allocated to and expenditure incurred by the Central Universities during Ninth Five Year Plan period is given in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir. However, in cases where the Universities were not able to utilise the funds available for teaching posts, the UGC has permitted re-appropriation for additional infrastructure and development facilities like books/journals/equipment and building projects approved under the 9th Plan Development Scheme.

(c) The recommendations made by Punnayya Committee are given in the enclosed Statement-II (*See* below).

(d) and (e) The recommendations of Punnayya Committee were considered by the UGC in its meeting held on 2.2.1994. Majority of the recommendation were accepted by the Commission and communicated to the Central Universities for adoption. In respect of some recommendations where modalities of implementation were to be worked out, Committees have been set up by the UGC. The government, has vide its letter dated 7th Nov. 2002, asked the UGC for rationalization of fees in University/college system in general, with particular reference to the institution funded by the Central Government through the UGC.

Statement-I

Development Grant Allocated/released to and Expenditure incurred by Central Universities during 9th Plan Period

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the University	Grants allocated	Grants released	Amount for which Utilisation Certificate has been received
1	2	3	4	5
	UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	Aligarh Muslim University	1400.00	1320.00	1038.91
2.	Banaras Hindu University	1500.00	1450.00	1349.61
3.	B.R. Ambedkar University	1800.00	1790.00	1789.46
	ASSAM			
4.	Assam University	1600.00	1470.00	1428.48
5.	Tezpur University	1800.00	1790.00	1569.65
	DELHI			
6.	University of Delhi	1700.00	1460.00	511.46
7.	Jamia Millia Islamia	1400.00	1120.42	1380.27
8.	Jawaharlal Nehru University			
9.	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	1700.00 18700.00	1615.47 15648.00	1270.69 15313.00
	MEGHALAYA			
10.	*North Eastern Hill University	1134.60	1097.80	1054.66
	MIZORAM			
11.	**Mizoram University	7000.00	565.40	169.20
	MAHARASHTRA			
12.	M.G.A. Hindi University	1800.00	1124.75	646.00
	NAGALAND			
13.	Nagaland University	1600.00	1600.00	1527.44

1	2	3	4	5
	ANDHRA PRADESH			
14.	M.A.N. Urdu University	2052.00	1950.00	1710.41
15.	University of Hyderabad	1400.00	1345.00	1300.57
	PONDICHERRY			
16.	Pondicherry University	1500.00	1500.00	1446.65
	WEST BENGAL			
17.	Visva Bharati University	1300.00	1264.00	704.47

*Original allocation was Rs. 1700.00 lakhs but Rs. 565.40 lakhs was diverted to Newly established Mizoram University.

**Rs. 7000.00 lakh is the allocation for 9th and 10th Plan for Mizoram University.

Statement II

Recommendations of Punnayya Committee

1. Any additional resources generated by a university/institution may by kept in a separate fund to be utilised for furtherance of the objectives of the university/institution.
2. UGC may provide a matching grant as an incentive to universities generating additional resources.
3. There should be 100% income tax concession on all endowments and contributions made to the universities, and additional concessions to donors sponsoring selected research projects in the universities.
4. While universities should be encouraged to augment their resources for covering a larger proportion of costs of education than what prevails now, the increased burden must be borne mainly by those who can afford.
5. State or Government funding must continue to be an essential and mandatory requirement for support to higher education. The Government/State must continue to accept the major responsibility for funding the essential maintenance and developmental requirements of the universities.

6. The basis of funding of central university may be linked to its specific objectives and to its pursuit of excellence, innovativeness, all-India character, and ability to provide access to weaker sections.

7. Research funds may be provided in the development grant as special inputs for strengthening the university's research infrastructure.

8. Central university's may switch to appropriate mix of input funding and student funding systems, which may be standardised for comparable courses of study of UGC over a period of time.

9. In regard to student funding, consideration of merit as well as social and economic backwardness should be taken into account.

10. Quality, efficiency and innovativeness must be consciously rewarded and institutions failing to improve financial and academic discipline should face disincentives.

11. The unit cost system of calculation of eligibility for grants should replace the existing incremental system which may by retained till the end of the current five-year plan period.

12. From the Ninth Plan onwards, grants should be related to unit cost of activities as a rule except for new programmes for which unit costs are not determined, or would be difficult to determine.

13. The Government must ensure that the maintenance grant covers the wage bill of universities including periodical increases in increments, D.A. and other service charges.

14. Heavy subsidies in many of the activities covered under maintenance grants, such as supply of electricity, transport, water supply etc. and in many other items have to be reviewed and reduced to a substantial extent so that the maintenance grant can be stabilized at a certain acceptable level.

15. Maintenance grants to a university based on unit costs of its activities would require periodical revision.

16. Expenditure due to increase in the number of staff has to be reviewed and curbed firmly wherever necessary.

17. An optimum division between academic and non-academic costs should be arrived at to help in stabilising the maintenance expenditure.

18. The universities should be competent to operate its maintenance grant flexibly except for the creation of any new post of any category.

19. 20% of the annual maintenance grant may by released to the universities in April-May, 60% in September-October and remaining 20% in December.

20. Part of the development grant may be provided for organisation of new academic programmes and development of existing programmes.

21. Development grants should be linked to an academic audit system and performance indicators to be developed by each university.

22. Central universities must avoid offering conventional courses except when they are specially needed.

23. In viewing academic infrastructural facilities, no distinction should be made in regard to the plan and non-plan grants and the entire system must be viewed as a whole.

24. Each university must have a perspective plan which must be linked to its objectives, environment and potential.

25. UGC must have a well developed system for defining objectives and profile of each central university and also of monitoring their development.

26. UGC should constitute a Standing Advisory Committee of experts who would continue on a reasonably long term basis for evaluating the perspective plans drawn up by Central Universities and monitoring them.

27. UGC should have special provision of funds in the plan for which all universities may compete to organise new courses of study and undertake research in identified areas. UGC may identify areas for such courses of study and research. Selection of institutions for funding must be on clearly identified parameters.

28. The Vice Chancellors may be provided with specified discretionary fund to be used for promoting excellence in teaching and research without incurring any recurring liability.

29. Once the Five Year Plan of university is finalised, the university should be competent to implement these schemes within the broad guidelines of UGC.

30. Each university should have a Statutory Building Committee. It should not be required for universities to seek the approval of UGC for construction of building, once plan and the estimates are approved by the Building Committee.

31. The University must have an efficient system for dissemination of information regarding deployment of resources and implementation of academic and non-academic plan programmes.

32. The development plans of the universities should be linked to the perspective plans of the universities and there should be a statutory Planning and Monitoring Committee for each central/ deemed university.

33. The universities and UGC must improve its organisation of an efficient, reliable and prompt information system of storage, retrieval and analysis of the same.

34. UGC must develop a system of presenting annually a set of selected information on academic, administrative and financial parameters of the institutions, particularly, which are fully funded by it. This information should be utilised in decision making processes.

35. Two parallel quantitative norms for determining the Non-Plan grants viz. (a) the optimum proportion of total maintenance grant for particular activity and (b) the optimum per student recurring cost p.a. have been suggested.

36. The academic cost i.e. expenditure directly related to teaching and research should be 60-65%, academic administration should be 10-12%, on other departments, auxiliary services etc. be within

20-25% of the total maintenance grant. Till further refinement in calculation the basis of maintenance grants is calculated as under:

	Activity	Social Sc./Humanities	Science
		Cost per student	
i)	Academic/Teaching Cost	Rs.11,680/-	Rs.21,640/-
ii)	Academic/Admn. Cost	Rs. 4,500/-	Rs. 4,500/-
iii)	Other department/auxiliary services & miscellaneous expenses	Rs.6,070/-	Rs. 6.070/-
	TOTAL:	Rs.22,250 or 22,300	Rs.32,210 or 32,200

37. ADA, Pension, Arrear pay etc. by provided on actual basis.

38. The maintained institutions in A.M.U., B.H.U. and Visva-Bharati be paid maintenance expenditure on incremental basis till meeting the same from other agencies is finalised.

39. The Student teacher ratio should be 1:12.

40. The teaching to non-teaching staff ratio should be brought to 1:3 and employees like gardeners, safaiwalas, watchward etc. be engaged on contract basis to the extent possible.

41. The minimum work-load for Professors, Readers and Lecturers should be 40 hours per week and the work distribution for actual teaching and tutorial, examination, research, own reading, administrative work, assistance to students have been spelt out in detail.

42. On the pattern of the U.K., the Indian Universities should adopt Academic Audit system and UGC may give highest priority to it as this will not only promote academic efficiency, but also cost effectiveness.

43. Priority should be given to introduce a monitoring system for Performance Indicators.

44. While the Government/UGC may continue to be the major funding agency, the universities must generate internal resources which should be sizeable in course of time.

45. The tuition fees may be revised upwards with immediate effect and may be periodically adjusted, keeping in view the rate of inflation. The tuition fee may have to be different within a university, for different courses of study. The revised fee should be made applicable to the new entrants.

46. Fees for library, laboratory, sports should be revised upwards to recover a significant part of the recurring cost.

47. Hostel fees should be revised with immediate effect to meet all the actual recurring cost and in due course of time, a part of capital cost as well. The student community should be involved in the discussions to raise resources where their interests are affected.

48. There is a need to review the municipal, civil and other services which are extended to individual members of the university, in their personal capacity and they should be charged appropriately to recover the cost.

49. The income derived from enhancement of fees should be utilised to augment fellowship and scholarship programmes for ensuring access to weaker sections.

50. For generating income, the universities should let out their infrastructural facilities like playgrounds, auditoria etc. and also organise short-term courses for which there is demand. They should also solicit endowments, contributions and actively participate in consultancy, without affecting the academic activity of the institutions.

51. The resources generated by the universities should constitute at least 15% of the total recurring expenditure at the end of the first five years and at least 25% at the end of 10 years.

52. With a view to mobilising resources from within the country and abroad the Alumni Association may be set up in each university with the assistance of an Advisory Body consisting of the well wishers of the University.

53. A significant proportion of the internally generated resources and incentive grant from UGC for the purpose be put in a corpus

fund. UGC may also provide corpus fund grant to institutions in addition to maintenance and development grant.

54. The income from the corpus fund be utilised for infrastructural development of the university.

55. Income generated by the university be used to built up the basis academic infrastructure without having any recurring liability (particularly staff appointment) besides providing support to needy students.

56. UGC may comprehensively look into expanding and/or appropriately targeting the existing schemes for providing fellowships, scholarships, freeships and student concessions.

57. The existing scheme of the Department of Welfare to provide tuition and living expenses to SC/ST students needs streamlining.

58. There is a need to strengthen the "Book-Bank" scheme in institutions.

59. UGC may introduce broad-based student scholarship schemes for postgraduate students studying in central universities; this may be extended to 20% of the total student enrolment at postgraduate level.

60. Central Universities should award freeships or admit students at concessional rate of fee to meritorious students belonging to socially and economically weaker sections of the society.

61. UGC may explore the possibilities of introducing soft loan scheme in collaboration with the nationalised banks.

62. Government in course of time may shift the funding of universities to a system of students funding for ensuring access of higher education to socially and weaker section of the society.

63. In respect of institutions deemed to be universities the present mode of determining the maintenance grant may be replaced by grants based on input cost, the modalities for which could be determined by a group to be set up by UGC.

64. The pattern of provision of development grant suggested for Central Universities should apply by and large to the institutions deemed to be universities.

65. A statutory body for extending financial assistance to Delhi colleges be constituted and UGC may not directly fund Delhi colleges.

66. The Governing Bodies of Delhi colleges should be reorganized and conferred adequate powers and authority.

67. UGC in consultation with Government of India should set up a committee regarding the future set up of the Delhi colleges in light of the foreseeable demand for new colleges in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. This may *inter-alia* require multi-campus structure or alternatively starting new universities.

68. Recommendation made for resource generation in respect of Central Universities should be applicable to Delhi colleges.

69. The Academic Audit System and Performance indicators should be finalised in consultation with the colleges and made applicable to them.

70. The 4 colleges affiliated to BHU may continue their affiliation to BHU until they voluntarily relinquish it.

71. A Banaras Hindu University College Funding Council be constituted under the Chairmanship of Pro-Vice-Chancellor, BHU which will receive funds both from UGC and U.P. State Government for disbursement to these colleges.

Coal-based Fertilizer Plants

*300. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal-based fertilizer plants established in the country so far;

(b) the details of fertilizer plants closed so far;

(c) whether Talcher Fertilizer Plant has been closed alongwith its heavy water plants; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?